

SENATE BILL 9036

By Pody

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,  
Chapter 21 and Title 68, relative to uniform  
standards regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 21, Part 3, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Adverse action" means an act or practice of exclusion, distinction,  
restriction, segregation, limitation, refusal, denial, or other act or practice of  
differentiation or preference in the treatment of a person, and includes, but is not  
limited to:

(A) The same meaning as in § 50-1-1002; and

(B) Refusing service or denying entry to the premises of a  
business unless proof of COVID-19 vaccination is provided;

(2) "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and  
coronavirus disease 2019, commonly referred to as COVID-19, including any  
mutation of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19; and

(3) "Damages" means:

(A) Actual damages;

(B) Punitive damages; and

(C) Nominal damages.

(b) A person shall not violate the religious freedom of another by taking adverse action against the other person who objects to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine based on a religious belief, creed, or personal conscience.

(c) A person injured as a result of a violation of this section may bring a private right of action in the chancery court of the county in which the violation occurred. The action must be initiated within one (1) year from the date on which the injury occurred.

(d) A person who brings an action under this section and prevails in court may recover treble damages and costs and reasonable attorney's fees against the defendant. This section does not limit other remedies at law or equity, including injunctive relief, available to the injured person against the defendant.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to violations occurring on or after that date.